

GREG BARTHOLOMEW

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# On the Trunks of Strong Trees

for baritone (or alto) voice,  
flute, piano and cello

BURKE & BAGLEY

Duration: 6 minutes

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# On the Trunks of Strong Trees

for baritone or alto voice, flute, piano and cello

After dinner when the refrigerator droned monotone commentary,  
To supplant the fan overhead,  
Holding onto the railing she fled  
Down ten flights of orange-railed stairs and outside  
Into the evening drizzle and the ionized air  
In no state of mind to be fair  
To the crisp calmness which spoke for the world  
With lingering light in the sky and windshield wipers in gear,  
Singing to counteract fear,  
And everything else that weighed down  
Ten floors up in the kitchen  
When thirty-two seemed too old  
To lose direction without losing hold  
On a peace that no longer believed itself  
Any better than boredom.  
So she let herself slow down  
And accept the strength that she found  
From lashing her tears on the trunks of strong trees,  
Sucking in the scent of wet earth,  
Staring at the coarse cold bark,  
Believing in the thunder and the dark.

Premiered February 15, 2006, by Vanessa Rose Ament, soprano, Jessica Andrews, piano, Samantha Bosch, flute, and Tracy Hagen, cello, on the *Pleasure for the Ear* concert at Bethany Lutheran Church.

The text was authored by the composer.

For information about the composer, visit [www.gregbartholomew.com](http://www.gregbartholomew.com).

**BURKE & BAGLEY**

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# On the Trunks of Strong Trees

Greg Bartholomew

$\text{♩} = 100$

Baritone

Flute

Piano

Violoncello

*mp*

*tr*

5

Fl.

Pno

Vc.

8

Fl.

Pno

Vc.

*rit.*

*tr*

*mp*

2 13  $\text{♩} = 78$   
*mp*

Bar.

Vc.

16

Bar.

Fl.

Pno

Vc.

19

Bar.

Fl.

Pno

Vc.

*mp*

23

Bar. *mf* frig er-a-tordoned mo - no tone\_\_com - men - ta - ry,\_\_\_\_ to sup - plant the fan o ver, fan o ver, fan o - ver,

Fl. *mf*

Pno *cresc.* *mf*

Vc. *cresc.* *mf*

26

Bar. *mp* *p* fan o - ver head, hold - ing on - to the rail - ing she fled down ten flights of orange - railed stairs and

Fl. *mp* *p*

Pno *mp* *p*

Vc. *p*

29

Bar. *mf* out - side, in - to the eve - 'ning driz - zle and the i - o - nized air,

Fl. *mf*

Pno *mf*

Vc. *pizz.* *mf* *arco*

4 32

Bar. 

Fl. 

Pno 

Vc. 

35 > *mp*

Bar. 

Fl. 

Pno 

Vc. 

Bar. sky - ay - i-aye aye - eee\_ and wind - shield wi - pers. in gear, in gear\_ sing-ing to coun-ter - act

Fl. (8)

Pno *p*

Vc.

43 *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Bar. fear, fear,\_\_\_\_\_ and ev - 'ry - thing else that weighed down ten floors up in\_ the

Fl. *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Pno *mf* *f* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mp*

47

Bar. kitch - en,\_\_\_\_\_ when thir - ty two seemed too old,\_\_\_\_\_ when thir - ty two seemed too old to\_

Fl.

Vc.

Bar. *mf*  
lose\_ di - rec - tion with - out los - ing hold, with - out\_ los - ing hold on a peace that no long - er be - lieved it - self.

Fl.

Vc. *mf*

Bar. *mp* *p*  
— an - y bet - ter than bore - dom, so she let her - self slow down, she let her - self slow down,

Fl. *mf* *mp* *p*

Pno *mf* *mp* *p*

Vc.

Bar. *mf*  
and ac - cept the strength that she found from lash - ing her tears on the

Fl.

Pno *mp*

Vc. *p* *mf*



69

*mp*

7

Bar. *mp*

trunks of strong trees, — suck - ing in the scent of wet earth, —

Fl. *mp*

Pno *mp*

Vc. *mp*

76

*mf**mp*

Bar. *mf* *mp*

star - ing at the coarse cold bark, — be - liev - ing in the thun - der and the dark.

Fl.

Pno *8va*

Vc.

82

*f**mp*

Bar. *f* *mp*

Lash - ing her tears on the trunks of strong trees, suck - ing in the

Fl. *mp*

Pno *f* *mp*

Vc. *f*

Bar. *scent of wet earth, — star - ing at the coarse, cold bark,*

Fl. *mp*

Pno *mp*

Vc. *mp* 3

91 *mf* *f* *mp* *rit.* *p*

Bar. *be - liev - ing in the thun - der and the dark.*

Fl. *f* *mp* *p*

Pno *mf* *mp* *p*

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp* *p*